



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

Dr. Arnold P. Wendroff
Mercury Poisoning Project
544 Eighth Street
Brooklyn, New York 11215-4201

JUL 12 2013

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Re: Your Freedom of Information Request - EPA-HQ-2013-007256

Dear Dr. Wendroff:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request of June 10, 2013 regarding records of the Environmental Protection Agency's support of research performed by Mark Morris, George Woodall et al. on mercury exposure in Bolivia and Peru. The responses to your questions are as follows:

1. The official responsibilities of Mark Morris of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, and George Woodall of EPA's Office of Research and Development in the research and manuscript preparation of the two attached and (excerpted) enclosed papers: "Estimating historical atmospheric mercury concentrations from silver mining and their legacies in present-day surface soil in Potosí, Bolivia" and "Estimations of historical atmospheric mercury concentrations from mercury refining and present-day soil concentrations of total mercury in Huancavelica, Peru."

Mr. Morris is an engineer who performs and assists in the development of risks assessments for the Air Toxic Assessment Group (ATAG) in the Health and Environmental Impact Division (HEID) of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS). An overview of the divisional structure of OAQPS can be found at: <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-air-and-radiation-oar>. In support of the above referenced papers Mr. Morris assisted in the development and preparation of dispersion modeling files, ambient mercury predictions, and preparation of the geographical figures utilized in the papers.

Dr Woodall is a toxicologist in the Hazardous Pollutant Assessment Group (HPAG) in the RTP Division of the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) of the EPA's Office of Research and Development. An overview of the divisional structure of NCEA can be found at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/orgchart.cfm>. In support of the above referenced papers Dr. Woodall assisted in the interpretation and predictions of the health effects associated with inhalation to mercury. Dr Woodall's role in the subject papers mainly involved the application of the reference values using an existing EPA tool such as that summarized previously in an EPA Report (EPA/600/R-09/061, 2009). This report can be found online at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=211003>.

Both scientists participated in several hour-long meetings, and reviewed drafts of the subject papers, including for EPA clearance prior to publication. See attached records.

2. The amount of money and man-hours expended by EPA on the work performed by Messrs Morris and Woodall on research and manuscript preparation of these two papers.

As noted above, both Mr. Morris and Dr. Woodall provided technical assistance in the development of the subject papers. EPA staff in OAQPS and ORD do not log a detailed accounting of their project time on specific tasks. Thus, no log of their time on a specific task exists to release under the FOIA. Attached please find the records of the meetings for this project.

3. The official responsibilities of Ted Palma, James Hirtz, James Thurman, and Roger Brode of the EPA for their support and contributions to these two papers.

Mr. Palma is a physical scientist who performs and assists in the development of risks assessments for ATAG. Mr. Hirtz is an environmental protection specialist who also performs and assists in the development of risks assessments for ATAG. Dr. Thurman, a physical scientist, and Mr. Brode, an environmental scientist, work in the Air Quality Modeling Group (AQMG) in the Air Quality Assessment Division (AQAD) of OAQPS and develop/support the EPA's air quality models. Attached please find the records of the meetings for this project.

4. The amount of money and man-hours expended by EPA on the work performed by Messrs Palma, Hirtz, Thurman and Brode for their support and contributions to these two papers.

As noted above, EPA staff in OAQPS do not log a detailed accounting of their project time on specific tasks. Thus, no log of their time on a specific task exists to release under the FOIA. Attached please find the records of the meetings for this project.

5. The role of the National Center for Environmental Assessment in the conduct of the research leading to these two papers.

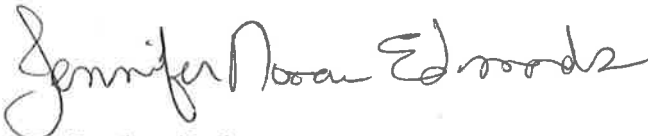
Support for students, recent graduates and faculty fellows has been provided by the National Center for Environmental Assessment through programs administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (www.orise.edu). Attached please find the ORISE Statement of Work.

You may appeal this response to the National Freedom of Information Officer, U.S. EPA, FOIA and Privacy Branch, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T), Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only), Fax: (202) 566-2147, E-mail: hq.foia@epa.gov. Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20001. Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30 calendar day limit. The appeal letter should include the

FOI listed above. For quickest possible handling, the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Again thank you for your inquiry. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,


for Stephen D. Page
Director

Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards

